

NOTES ON NEW SOUTH WALES ORCHIDS.

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(One Text-figure.)

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ORCHIDS OF THE SOUTH MAITLAND COALFIELDS.—In These PROCEEDINGS, 1930, p. 413, and 1931, p. 133, I have recorded 68 species of orchids from this area. Six more have since been added to the list, as follows:

69. *Bulbophyllum Elisae* F.v.M.—Mrs. C. A. Messmer found this plant during an excursion to Rocky Glen, beyond Mount Vincent.

70. *Thelymitra media* R.Br.—Between Pelaw Main and Mount Vincent, August, 1931 (Mrs. C. A. Messmer, E. Minchell and H.M.R.R.). At first these were taken for early specimens of *T. ixiooides* Swz., but examination showed the columns in agreement with descriptions of *T. media*. The flowers, intermediate in size between those depicted by Fitzgerald and the larger Victorian form, were deeper in colour than those of *T. ixiooides*, which was plentiful in the same locality two or three weeks later.

71. *Diuris maculata* Sm.—Neath Public School, August, 1931. This is the only specimen I have seen in the Hunter River district of this species, which is so abundant in other localities north and south. It was found by a schoolboy near Neath Colliery, and is quite typical.

72. *Prasophyllum elatum* R.Br.—Near Kurri Kurri and Pelaw Main, September, 1931. Fairly typical, up to 2 ft. 6 in. in height. One plant bore distinctly yellow flowers.

73. *Prasophyllum brevilabre* Hook.—Near Hebburn No. 1 Colliery dam, Weston, August, 1931 (Mrs. C. A. Messmer, E. Minchell and H.M.R.R.). Quite plentiful in this locality, but not seen elsewhere. Very variable in size.

74. *Pterostylis rufa* R.Br.—I have on several occasions called attention to the need for careful revision of this group in the genus *Pterostylis*, commonly called the "rufous" or "ruddy" Greenhoods. Published descriptions do not always agree; and there is undoubtedly discrepancy between the forms known in New South Wales as *P. rufa* and *P. Mitchellii*, and those recognized by these names in Victoria. *P. pusilla* var. *puminens*, a form described by me in These PROCEEDINGS, 1931, p. 136, is probably sometimes taken for *P. rufa*. While it is certainly not

that species, I have made it clear (*loc. cit.*) that I am not satisfied with its inclusion in *P. pusilla*. I have only once seen a rufous Greenhood with the curious globular hairy structure shown on the under-side of the labellum in Fitzgerald's *P. rufa*, and that particular plant was sent to me (in bud) as a Victorian *P. pusilla*. It is possible that—as was the case with *Corysanthes dilatata* until a few years ago—there is an unrecognized species causing confusion in the group. The *P. rufa* recorded here was found by me on the hill behind Neath Colliery in September, 1931, in association with *P. mutica* and *P. pusilla* var. *prominens*. Mr. E. Minchell and I searched diligently for further specimens in vain. The plant agrees with specimens from other localities in New South Wales, except for the unusual brilliance of the colouring—the flower is almost scarlet. It differs from *P. pusilla* var. *prominens* in the following respects: The flowers are quite erect on relatively short pedicels with much longer subtending bracts. The whole flower is broader, the lateral sepals are much so; and all sepals have longer caudae. The incidence of the very long white cilia on the labellum-margins is different; the labellum is very deep red from base to tip, the latter being neither bifid nor emarginate.

CORYSANTHES UNDULATA Cunn.

Russell Island, Moreton Bay, Queensland, June–July, 1931, Mrs. H. Curtis (new record for Queensland). Since the re-discovery of this long-lost little orchid at Bullahdelah in 1924 (see These PROCEEDINGS, liii, Part 2, 1928, p. 88, and references given there), it has not been recorded elsewhere until 1931. Mrs. Curtis sent me two living specimens in June, followed by more in July. They were identical in all respects with the Bullahdelah plants. It is a pity Cunningham's locality is not known. The occurrence of a species with the habits of this *Corysanthes* in such widely-separated localities as Bullahdelah and Moreton Bay suggests that it is probably not as rare as was supposed. At Bullahdelah I do not think it is ever in flower so late as July: May–June is the period. This leads me to remark that for some years I have had Queensland plants of *Dendrobium falcorostrum*, *D. aemulum*, and *D. teretifolium*. Every year they come into flower just as the New South Wales forms of these species are going off. I had supposed this to be due to the requirement of a temperature equivalent to that of their northern home. But if *Corysanthes undulata* flowers in Queensland some weeks later than it does more than 300 miles further south, some other cause is apparently to be sought.

CALADENIA ANGUSTATA Lindl.

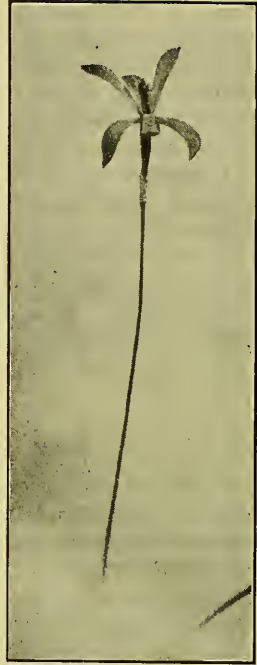
Guyra district, New England, October, 1929, and 1930, Rev. E. Norman McKie (new record for N.S.W.). So far as I can ascertain, this species is not previously on record for this State, and its occurrence on the highlands of New England is interesting. It has hitherto been regarded as confined to the southern States, and in Victoria was for long confused with *C. testacea* R.Br., a very distinct species. Mr. McKie first sent specimens to me in 1929, but they suffered in transit, and I included them tentatively in *C. dimorpha* Fitzg. In 1930 I received specimens in excellent condition. I was inclined to regard the orchid as a large form of Fitzgerald's *C. cucullata*, but Mr. W. H. Nicholls determined it as *C. angustata*, and after exhaustive comparisons with my Victorian and Tasmanian specimens, I fully concur. It possesses a sweet musky odour akin to that of *Caladenia carnea* var. *gigantea*.

CALADENIA TESTACEA R.Br.

Teratological specimens are always of interest, and it is remarkable how often we find in them the labellum "reverting to type", i.e., returning to its original form as a third petal. In September, 1931, in company with Mr. E. Minchell of Weston, I found amongst a colony of *C. testacea* one specimen which, had it not been for its associates, I should have found difficult to place in any known species. The stem and leaf were those of *C. testacea*, but there the resemblance ended. The solitary flower was half as large again, and, except for purple specks all over the column, was wholly dull-green. The dorsal sepal, instead of forming a hood over the column, was reflexed backward like the other two. The paired petals were very convex: the labellum was a perfect petal, concave, horizontal, and devoid of any trace of calli. At one side of the usual anther at the top of the column was a second smaller anther.

DENDROBIUM TERETIFOLIUM R.Br. var. FAIRFAXII
Fitzg. and v. M.

This variety of *D. teretifolium* (as I regard it) is itself exceedingly variable: so much so that it would be most difficult to attempt definitions of many of the forms. One sent in 1930 by the Rev. E. Norman McKie from the Guyra district, however, is very distinct and seems worthy of mention. Mr. McKie sent me a plant after the flowering season and, though he stated that it was growing on a tree, it appeared to me very like the rock-loving *D. striolatum*, the leaves being very short, curved, and slightly fluted. It flowered in September, 1931, and the flowers, though very small, conform in all other respects to the type of *Fairfaxii*. It may perhaps be a natural hybrid.



Text-fig. 1.—Teratological specimen of *Caladenia testacea* from Weston.